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ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE WASHINGTON
DATE 2/24/91

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FOR DISSEMINATION TO: OADR

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Paris, October 8, 1959

My dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your letter of September 30 and the attached memorandum on the subject of the conversations you had with Mr. Khrushchev.

It seems to me that it amounts, on the Russian side, to a desire for relaxation of international tensions, but without the Chairman of the Soviet Council having modified his previous position on any of the subjects that are the causes of the tension, whether it be the problem of the limitation and control of armaments, Germany, the Communist Chinese intentions with respect to Formosa, the isolation in which the Russian people are kept in relation to the free nations, etc..... I note, however, that Mr. Khrushchev, while stating that the status quo in Berlin cannot be prolonged indefinitely and that the Western rights there cannot be continued without change, has denied, first to you and then publicly, that he has the intention of changing the present situation by unilateral measures, that, in other words, he wants to

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His Excellency

Dwight D. Eisenhower

President of the United States of America

Washington, D.C.

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take the responsibility for a conflict.

In these circumstances I believe it advisable during the coming months to see whether or not the Soviet Union takes steps to bring about a genuine international détente and what such steps might be. It is possible, for example, that the present session of the United Nations, the development of the controversy between Communist China and India, the Laos affair, the plans for trade or cultural agreements between Russia and certain Western nations, etc., will give Moscow the chance to prove itself favorable to conciliation, not merely in a theoretical but in a practical manner.

If that should be the case, the improvement in the political climate might permit consideration of the prospect of a summit conference. In that case we should certainly take counsel together among the Western powers in preparation for it. If it is possible for me, as I very much hope, to visit you in Washington during the coming spring, we could perhaps discuss this with a better and more exact knowledge of the matter. It is indeed my ardent desire, as it is yours, that some modus vivendi may be established on a firm foundation between our West and the countries of Eastern Europe, without our ceasing to be united and vigilant.

Most cordially and faithfully yours,

Charles de GAULLE

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